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**SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS**

Exhibit No. 2

Date 3-4-09

Bill No. SB 63

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee

FROM: Carl Peil, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: SB 63 -- Tax incentives for volunteer EMTs and their employers

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Carl Peil and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana – a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana recognizes that the older citizens of rural Montana greatly rely on the work of volunteer EMTs and believes that the state should encourage their activities.

As you may know, volunteer EMTs are often the first, or only, people to respond to accidents that happen in rural Montana. If the numbers of volunteer EMTs were to drop dramatically it would be a safety concern to thousands of Montanans, regardless of age.

Volunteer EMTs are well-trained and hard working regular citizens of Montana, and their highly valuable services should be recognized as such and provided with this credit. Especially now in uncertain economic times, volunteer EMTs are forced to tighten their belts like the rest of us. If they are forced to get a second or third job and drop their time as a volunteer EMT, all of Montana will suffer. AARP Montana strongly urges your support of Senate Bill 63.

Thank you.